

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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P 172200Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8495

UNCLAS BOGOTA 5871

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CPRS, CO

SUBJECT: STATUS FISHING VESSEL MIL-MAR I

REF: STATE 137518

FOR: SENATOR JOHN G. TOWER, WASHDC

CONGRESSMAN BOB CASEY WASHDC

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY TO FURNISH
YOU WITH A STATUS REPORT ON FISHING VESSEL MIL-MAR I OWNED BY
MIL MAR, INC, ROGER HOSS, PRESIDENT.

2. COURT IN BOGOTA WHICH HAD BEEN HEARING CASE RECENTLY TRANS-
FERRED JURISDICTION TO COURT IN SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA. NEW JUDGE
HAS NOT YET SCHEDULED CASE ON CROWDED DOCKET. MR. HOSS HAS
INSTRUCTED MR. RAFAEL RIVAS OF BOGOTA TO CONTINUE AS COMPANY'S
LEGAL COUNSEL AND TO APPOINT AN ATTORNEY AT SANTA MARTA TO ASSIST
HIM. DR. RIVAS HAS COMPLIED.

3. COLOMBIAN MERCHANT MARINE INVESTIGATED ALLEGATIONS THAT VESSEL
ENGAGED IN CONTRABAND AND REPORTED CHARGES ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION
AND VESSEL IN FACT ENGAGED IN LEGAL TRADE. HAROLD DERBER,
WHO MAKE ALLEGATIONS, IS A BRITISH SUBJECT PRESENTLY
INCARCERATED AT CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA. DERBER AND OTHERS ARRESTED
ATTEMPTING TO HIJACK MIL MAR I. DERBER'S INVOLVEMENT STEMS
FROM FACT THAT DEFECTIVE ENGINE IN VESSEL REPLACED WITH ENGINE
ALLEGEDLY OWNED BY DERBER WHO ALSO INVOLVED ANOTHER COURT CASE.
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DERBER'S PLAN WAS TO TAKE MIL MAR I OUT OF COLOMBIAN WATERS,

DELIVER VESSEL TO AMERICAN OWNERS AND RECOVER HIS ENGINE.

FOR HIS EFFORTS DERBER ASKED FOR A CERTAIN SUM FROM AMERICAN OWNERS. EMBASSY NOT AWARE TO WHAT EXTENT THEY COOPERATED BUT KNOWS MR. HOSS HAS MADE IT CLEAR DERBER IN NO WAY ASSOCIATED WITH MIL MAR, INC.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE OBSERVE CASE CLOSELY BUT WILL NOT MAKE FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE NEW JUDGE RENDERS DECISION.
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